

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, SU, XJ

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA
SITUATION

REF: STATE 238063

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON RHODESIA (REFTEL) WHICH WE SHALL PROVIDE ACTING FONMIN, CHARGE DISCUSSED RECENT US DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH FONMIN MAKKAWI WHO HAS SINCE DEPARTED KHARTOUM FOR LONDON AND NEW YORK. REFERRING TO PREVIOUS CONVERSATION HELD THREE WEEKS BEFORE, AT WHICH TIME MAKKAWI INDICATED CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM REGARDING OUR EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN ANRICA, CHARGE ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ALTERED HIS VIEWS.

2. FONMIN SAID THAT HE APPLAUDED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION. HE AGREED IT WAS IN US INTEREST TO SEEK PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS IN REGION AND HE THOUGHT SECRETAIR WAS USING RIGHT APPROACH. NEVERTHELESS, HE REMAINED VERY SUSPICIOUS OF VORSTER AND SMITH. HE SAID HE EXPECTED SMITH TO FIND SOME PRETENSE TO AVOID FULFILLING PROMISES HE MADE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. FURTHERMORE, MAKKAWI WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER RADICALIZATION OF BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE NOTED THAT RADICAL REGIMES WERE IN
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POWER IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA AND HE SAID RADICALS WERE

BEGINNING TO GAIN ASCENDENCY ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

3. COMMENT: NORMALLY SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES TEND TO BE FAR REMOVED FROM CONCERN OF SUDANESE. NEVERTHELESS, I GAINED IMPRESSION THAT MAKKAWI WAS INDEED IMPRESSED BY OUR EFFORTS OF PAST FEW WEEKS. IN ADDITION, HIS CONCERN OVER RADICAL AND COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA SHOULD BE SEEN IN CONTEXT OF SUDANESE APPREHENSIONS OVER RADICAL AND COMMUNIST IN-ROADS IN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA AND OVER INCREASING CONCERN HERE AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF SOVIET/ LIBYAN COOPERATION AIMED AGAINST SUDAN AND EGYPT (SEE KHARTOUM 2764). ON BALANCE, MAKKAWI SEEMED ENCOURAGED BY OUR EFFORTS, BUT HE REMAINS VERY SUSPICIOUS OF RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN REGIMES AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT RADICAL AND COMMUNIST ADVANCES IN MUCH OF AFRICA.

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